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THRAGG.
ALLEN, TÃO BOM TE VER NOVAMENTE... E O JOVEM VILTRUMITA TRAIDOR SE CUROU BEM.
AGORA, VOCÊ ACHOU **MESMO** QUE OCUPARÍAMOS ESTE PLANETA SEM MONITORAR A ATIVIDADE ORBITAL?
NÓS VIMOS SUA CHEGADA, SABEMOS DE SEU PLANO, ENTÃO...
ME DIGA PORQUE EU NÃO DEVERIA MATAR VOCÊ DOIS **AGORA**!

BEM, TEM ALGUNS MOTIVOS QUE VEM EM MENTE INDO DO COMOVENTE E CORAJOSO AO MUNDANO E DESESPERADO.
EU PODERIA LISTAR TODOS, MAS LEVARIA UM TEMPO. ENTÃO VOU APENAS FICAR COM O MAIS IMPORTANTE...
SE VOCÊ APENAS MOVER UM MÚSCULO EM NOSSA DIREÇÃO-- EU PUXO O GATILHO... E VOCÊ MORRE.
VOCÊ CLARAMENTE NÃO FAZ IDEIA DO QUANTO TENHO RESISTIDO À VONTADE DE TE MATAR SIMPLESMENTE PARA VER ESSE OLHO UNOPAN RIDÍCULO PROJETADO PARA FORA DE SEU CRÂNIO DESPEDAÇADO...
AGORA VOCÊ DEMONSTRA DESRESPEITO IMENSURÁVEL ME AMEAÇANDO COM O VÍRUS PRAGA... A COISA QUE TRANSFORMOU MEU PLANETA NATAL NUMA TUMBA... ANTES DE VOCÊ AJUDAR O CRIADOR, THAEDUS A DESTRUÍ-LO...
VOCÊ NÃO FAZ IDEIA DO CONTROLE QUE ESTOU EXERCENDO NESTE MOMENTO...
ESSA É UMA VARIANTE APERFEIÇOADA MUITO MAIS LETAL QUE O ANTERIOR QUE DIZIMOU A POPULAÇÃO VILTRUMITA.
EU TE ACONSELHARIA A PARAR DE FINGIR QUE AINDA TEM VANTAGEM AQUI.
NÃO IMPORTA O NÍVEL DE PERFEIÇÃO QUE VOCÊ ALCANÇOU NESSA NOVA VARIANTE... SEI QUE EU PODERIA SEPARAR SUA CABEÇA DO CORPO ANTES DE O VÍRUS FAZER EFEITO EM MIM.
ENTÃO VAMOS SER CLAROS NOS TERMOS DESTE EMPATE.

OK, ENTÃO ACABOU, CERTO? ALLEN-- VOCÊ VAI PEGAR SUAS COISAS E IR PRA CASA?
THRAGG SABE-- VOCÊ NÃO ESTÁ PEGANDO ELES DE SURPRESA-- SE LIBERAR ESSA COISA NA ATMOSFERA DA TERRA AGORA ELES APENAS VÃO PARTIR, DEIXANDO O PLANETA ANTES DO VÍRUS SE ESPALHAR.
ENTÃO É ISSO-- SEU PLANO ESTÁ OFICIALMENTE ESTRAGADO.
QUALÉ, PESSOAL... NÃO VAMOS FAZER NADA LOUCO, TÁ?
ESTOU TOTALMENTE DESPREPARADO PARA LOUCURAS AGORA.
DEIXE-ME SER CLARO. NÃO HAVERÁ LUTA AQUI... NÃO AGORA.
COMO O NOVO CHEFE DA COALISÃO DE PLANETAS, ALLEN... ENTENDO QUE ESTEJA SOB TREMENDA PRESSÃO... E PRECISA SE PROVAR DIGNO NO CARGO.
EU GOSTARIA DE PROPOR UMA TRÉGUA.

UMA TRÉGUA? MESMO?
SIM. EU PODERIA TE MATAR AGORA, TALVEZ VOCÊ ME INFECTASSE, TALVEZ NÃO. MEU POVO ESTARIA SEGURO, VOCÊ ESTARIA MORTO.
MAS DE QUE ISSO SERVE? VOCÊ NÃO É TÃO ESTÚPIDO DE ESSA SER A ÚNICA AMOSTRA DO VÍRUS. VOCÊ TEM ELE ARMAZENADO EM ALGUM LUGAR, ALÉM DO MEU ALCANCE.
ENTÃO APÓS VOCÊ MORRER SEU SUCESSOR VOLTA AQUI E ESTAMOS EXATAMENTE NO MESMO LUGAR.
ALÉM DISSO, NÃO ACREDITO QUE VOCÊ REALMENTE QUEIRA ISSO. SEI COMO É SE TORNAR LÍDER, CONFIAREM A VOCÊ ESSE PAPEL.
NESSE ESTÁGIO, VOCÊ ESTÁ PERMITINDO QUE SEU DEVER SE SOBREPONHA AO SEU BOM JUÍZO. A EXTINÇÃO DA VIDA NA TERRA NÃO VALE A PENA PELAS VIDAS DE TRINTA VILTRUMITAS.
TAMBÉM, EU SERIA DESCUIDADO SE NÃO TE APONTASSE QUE VOCÊ SÓ TEM MINHA PALAVRA DE QUE ESTAMOS TODOS QUITES NESTE PLANETA. VOCÊ ACHA MESMO QUE EU PERMITIRIA QUE MEU POVO ESTIVESSE EM POSIÇÃO TÃO VULNERÁVEL?
SE O ESMAGADOR SENSO DE OBRIGAÇÃO COM SEU NOVO PAPEL NÃO ESTIVESSE NUBLANDO SEU JULGAMENTO... VOCÊ FERIA TUDO ISSO, E ESTARIA CIENTE DISSO. AO INVÉS, VOCÊ ESTÁ AGINDO POR IMPULSO, PERMITINDO QUE SUA INCERTEZA GUIE SUAS DECISÕES.
ESSA NÃO É UMA BOA IDEIA.
CONSIDERE COM VOCÊ REALMENTE SE SENTE QUANTO A ISSO, E VAI CONCORDAR.
OK...
ENTÃO AGORA ESTAMOS CHEGANDO A ALGUM LUGAR.

PORTANTO, PROPONHO UMA TRÉGUA. OCUPAMOS ESTE PLANETA, NÃO É UMA OCUPAÇÃO HOSTIL, NOSSA PRESENÇA É LARGAMENTE DESCONHECIDA PELA POPULAÇÃO. VOCÊ ESTÁ DESCONFORTÁVEL COM ISSO... MAS EU ESTOU DESCONFORTÁVEL COM VOCÊ TENDO O VÍRUS PRAGA EM MÃOS, DE PRONTIDÃO.
VOCÊ TEM A HABILIDADE DE NOS ATACAR COM O VÍRUS A QUALQUER HORA. TEMOS A HABILIDADE DE MATAR CADA COISA VIVA DESTE PLANETA-- E RETOMAR NOSSA GUERRA COM A COALISÃO.
ESTAMOS NUM IMPASSE. DIGO PARA DEIXARMOS NOSSAS POSIÇÕES FICAREM COMO ESTÃO, COM CADA GRUPO MANTENDO O OUTRO EM XEQUE.
NÓS VIVEREMOS AQUI, NADA MAIS... E EM TROCA, VOCÊ NÃO TENTARÁ NOS MATAR.
NÃO SEI SE POSSO FAZER ISSO FUNCIONAR.
DEIXE-ME TE AJUDAR. VOCÊ ESTÁ ENCURRALADO.
NÃO TEM ESCOLHA.
UMA OVA QUE NÃO! APOSTO QUE SEU POVO ESTÁ BEM DISFARÇADO... APOSTO QUE ESSE VÍRUS PEGARIA ELES ANTES QUE ELES PUDESSEM SAIR DO MUNDO, PODEMOS NÃO PEGAR TODOS VOCÊS, MAS--
OLIVER... PARE.
THRAGG ESTÁ CERTO.

OH, MAS QUE DROGA?

COMO ESTOU TE OUVINDO? VOCÊ ESTÁ NO NOSSO SISTEMA DE COMUNI-CAÇÕES?
O QUE? NÃO OUVI ELE.
TENHO TECNOLOGIA ALIENÍ-GENA QUE ME PERMITE TRANSMITIR E LER SEUS PENSAMENTOS.
ROBÔ DIZ QUE NÃO PODE ME OUVIR? SE ELE NÃO ESTÁ NESSE TRAJE, ESTÁ FORA DE ALCANCE-- POR ISSO.
DIZ QUE TEM TECNOLOGIA ALIEN QUE PODE TRANSMI-TIR E LER PENSA-MENTOS. VOCÊ ESTÁ FORA DE ALCANCE.
DESCULPE DEIXAR VOCÊS DE FORA DISSO.
PODEM VOLTAR, TEMOS TUDO SOB CONTROLE.
ESTÁ NOS DIZENDO PARA PARTIR. ELE ESTÁ NO CONTROLE DA SITUAÇÃO.
É O QUE ELE ESTÁ DIZENDO?
QUEM SÃO ESSAS PESSOAS?
AMIGOS MEUS, NÃO SE PREOCUPE COM ELES. NÃO VÃO INTERFERIR.
ROBÔ DIZ QUE SEU STATUS COMO FUGITIVO O TORNA CÉTICO DE SUAS AÇÕES AQUI E ELE GOSTARIA QUE TODOS VOCÊS NOS ACOMPANHASSEM DE VOLTA AO PENTÁGONO PARA DETENÇÃO ATÉ AS COISAS SE ESCLARECEREM.
ISSO **NÃO** VAI ACONTECER.

SUBJUGUE-OS! GAROTA MONSTRO-- VOCE PEGA O GRANDAO!
QUAL DELES?!
OH, MERDA--QUALE, PESSOAL! NÃO FAÇAM ISSO!
DESCULPA, CARA. NÃO SEI QUAL A SUA ULTIMAMENTE... MAS TEM PREOCUPADO MUITAS PESSOAS. VOCE QUE PROCUROU ISSO.
CLARO-- MAS NÃO QUER DIZER QUE ESTOU ERRADO.
VOCE É MEU, BONITAO!
NÃO! FIQUE LONGE DELE!
ELE VAI TE MATAR!

QUAL O PROBLEMA COM VOCÊS? VOCÊS ATACAM QUEM ACABOU DE SALVAR SEU PLANETA?!
FICARAM LOUCOS?!
THRAGG, POR FAVOR!
PARE! NÃO OS MACHUQUE!
ESPERE-- TE PEGUEI!
AH, QUE SE DANE!

ENQUANTO ELE ESTÁ DISTRAÍDO! É NOSSA CHANCE!
O QUE ESTÁ FAZEN-DO?!
OLIVER, NÃO!
EI!
POR FAVOR NÃO OS MACHUQUE-- ESTÃO TENTANDO FAZER O BEM AQUI!
MINHA PACIÊNCIA TEM LIMITE.
OLIVER?!
DROGA, NÃO!

OLIVER!
OLIVER!

PARE COM ISSO! PARE AGORA!
CHOOM!
ESTOU TENTANDO SALVAR O UNIVERSO, SEU IDIOTA!
PARE VOCÊ!
KRAK!
NÃO!
APENAS DEIXE CAIR! DEIXE ACONTECER!
URAMM!

QUAL É...
PE-GUEI--!
WROMM!
NÃO PODE DEIXAR ESSAS PESSOAS MORREREM! SEI QUE NÃO SE IMPORTA COM ELAS-- MAS COMO PODE SEQUER TENTAR ISSO?!
WROK!
WRAKK!
VOCÊ É FRACO! ESSAS PESSOAS TE TORNAM FRACO! COMO PODE POR AS VIDAS DE BI-LHÕES CONTRA AS VIDAS DE OUTRO TANTO INCONCEBIVEL-MENTE MAIOR?!
NÃO VEJO DESSA FORMA!
WHUDD!

PAREM!
O DESTINO DE SEU MUNDO INTEIRO ESTÁ EM RISCO.
EU SOU NECESSÁRIO.
ENTÃO...
QUEM É VOCÊ?

ME CANSEI DE DISCUTIR COM VOCÊ SOBRE ISSO! ESTOU CANSADO DISSO! VOCÊ ESTÁ ERRADO! E AGORA TEM ALLEN RECONSIDERANDO--
ISSO TEM QUE SER FEITO!
NÃO, OLIVER... SÓ...
POR FAVOR.
POR FAVOR...
NÃO--
POR FAVOR.

PSHOOOM!!
MARK!
KOFF!

MARK!
NÃO!
PARA TRÁS! VOCÊ PODE SER INFECTADO TAMBÉM!
VOU AJUDAR ELE!
OH, DEUS...
MARK, AGUENTE AÍ!

VOCE ESTA BEM? MARK-- PODE ME OUVIR?!
ESTOU BEM--
COFF!
A RAJADA SÓ ME PEGOU DESPREVENIDO-- NÃO PUDE ME RECOMPOR.
AQUELA DESCARGA-- QUAL O ALCANCE? COMO VAI SE ESPALHAR NA ATMOSFERA?
QUAL A SITUAÇÃO AQUI?
MARK, VOCE SE SENTE BEM?
NÃO TRAGA ESTE PROBLEMA PARA MEU PLANETA E AJA COMO SE **LIGASSE**!
QUAL O RISCO AQUI?! O VIRUS É TRANSMITIDO PELO AR OU NÃO?!
ESTAMOS SOBRE UM OCEANO... E AS DESCARGAS DA PISTOLA SÃO PEQUENAS, FEITAS PARA CONTRAÇÕES INDIVIDUAIS.
O VIRUS INCUBA EM SEU CORPO E ENTÃO SE ESPALHA ATRAVÉS DO CONTATO PESSOAL... ELE DEPENDE DE TRANSPORTADORES PARA SE FORTALECER O BASTANTE PARA SE ESPALHAR.
O PLANETA NÃO ESTÁ SOB AMEAÇA.

OK...
BOM.
COMO SE SENTE? ESTÁ BEM?
O VÍRUS... TENHO CERTEZA QUE FOI EXPOSTO.
ESTOU BEM.
VOU ME SENTIR MUITO MELHOR DEPOIS DE TIRARMOS AQUELA ARMA DAS MÃOS DE OLIVER.
NÃO POSSO PERMITIR QUE VOCÊ TENHA CONTATO COM QUALQUER DNA HUMANO OU VILTRUMITA ATÉ PASSAR POR VÁRIOS EXAMES.
VOCÊ PRECISA FICAR EM QUARENTENA ATÉ ESTARMOS CERTOS DE QUE NÃO FOI INFECTADO.
INFECTADO-- QUARENTENA?! ALLEN, ESTOU BEM. EU GROSSEIRAMENTE SUPERESTIMEI A HABILIDADE DE SEU POVO DE SINTETIZAR UM VÍRUS. ESSA COISA NÃO FUNCIONA.
MARK...

O QUE?
O QUE ESTA ACONTECENDO?

WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

PEN INVINCIPALS

Welcome Back, Invincipals!

We're still jamming through 2012 right, with another issue of Invincible three weeks apart. Sure, we're spoiling you, but it'll stop soon enough, when we've gotten back on a monthly schedule.

Enough about us! Let's talk about you for a while... or at the very least let's talk about your thoughts regarding recent action in the book.

Hiya, amazing Kirk-Man!

I'm a 38-year-old french guy and I've been reading comics for most of my life. In fact, I learned to read with them (and a magnetic board my dad bought me). Oddly, this is the first time I write a letter to a comic book, can't figure out why exactly I haven't done it before. But I kinda felt compelled to send this mail to you.

I stumbled upon Invincible a couple weeks ago when I *ahem* downloaded a torrent chockfull of various Image comics. It's a thing I like doing sometimes: scanners like DCP or Minutemen do a great job making people discover new stuff. I can't count all the comics I've known this way. Yeah, I know it's illegal and some say readers of scanned comics are stealers (which I respectfully disagree because it helps spread the word and therefore attracts new readers - that goes for music and mp3s too, take that, music industry!) and I'm sure more than a few people use these scans to shamelessly read for free, but to me it's all about the discovery. Furthermore, it's not always easy to find what I want to read in France, especially imports (I like my American comics in english, a matter of suspension of disbelief: reading a story taking place in NY or DC and seeing the characters talk in french tends to pull me out of the story. Also, sometimes a lot is lost in the translation process).

To all this I say: can a fan not download books internationally via comixology or graphic.ly? While I can get behind sampling something for free (like when iTunes or Starbucks do a song of the week thing), it takes a bit of money for us to promote and produce these books, and it's only after that point that scanners think to put them on-line. You've made your stance, and that's just my two cents.

Look, I get that illegally downloaded comics gets the word out and can lead to more sales. It doesn't mean it's not illegal. You can't disagree with a fact. I see the benefit of it, I like that, that's a good thing, but allowing it to exist just breeds a generation that thinks it's okay, and that leads to everything collapsing. If everyone thinks "someone else" is paying, then no one is. And if I can't make a living writing these comics, I have to go mop floors or spend some time behind the Waffle House to make ends meet, and these comics stop.

I don't want to mop floors. So stealing is wrong, please purchase your entertainment... right? I'm not going to yell at illegal downloaders, and I'm not going to go to war with them, but you have to recognize that it's a dangerous trend that could lead to disastrous results for the future of all entertainment.

But SOPA ain't the answer! (Just getting that in there)

Anyway, Spider-Man's always been my favorite comic book since I was a kid (up until the retcon regarding MJ, that is), so upon reading the first issues of Invincible, I couldn't help but notice the connection. I was hooked and in a matter of days, I swept through all the 85 issues plus #0 and the minis, including the lettercols, and I effin' LLLLOVED IT!!! The mix of heroics and personal life, the numerous intertwining plotlines, the scope of the book from (friendly) neighborhood to galactic epic, the plots that remain dormant for 10 or 20 issues just to suddenly blow in our faces...

Hats off, mister Kirkman, you achieved a tremendous masterpiece of writing! You got yourself a new fan. I haven't been so thrilled by a comic book since 30 Days Of Night and as far as superheroes go, now Invincible is right behind Spidey competing for the title of Fav'rit' Supahero Evah (hard to wipe out a lifetime-long love affair like that, even considering the aforementioned retcon) followed by Batman, the only DC hero I ever liked, in the third place. I was especially floored by #50 to #65: that was one helluva rollercoaster ride! In the words of Scott Pilgrim the movie - which by the way sucked ass full force, whereas the book was really cool: AN EPIC OF EPIC EPICNESS!!!

Okay, Scott Pilgrim references do work in your favor. By the way: if you torrented that movie—thanks for contributing to its box office failure. I'm on a roll of meanness!

I feel a bit ashamed of having read the whole shebang without paying for it, though it's not really different from a friend lending me his TPBs, is it? None of my friends are into superhero comics anyway and I wasn't familiar with the Image line, so I probably never would have heard of Invincible if I hadn't DL'd that torrent in the first place. But anyway, from now on I'm buying. Promise. I'm even gonna look for the TPBs published up to this point, so see? No Rob robbed! I'm not exactly keen on stealing from artists I like. Also, a computer screen will never compare to a good old printed book.

Xo thanks!

Alright, I still have MANY more things to say, but I'm gonna end this mail before it turns to a novel - have to leave some room for the other penvincipals (assuming this letter makes it to the page, heh), right? I'll just keep the leftovers in the oven 'til next time. So, on to some numbered questions/wishes:

1) I was referring to you as an artist earlier, and I've been wondering: why is it that in America, the graphic team on a comic book is collectively called "artists?" I mean writers are artists too, aren't they? As are musicians, actors, sculptors, dancers, etc...

People are all about labels here, that's why.

YEAH!

2) One thing I've noticed: back in the days of Marvel Team-Up and Ant-Man, you seemed absolutely thrilled to get to work for Marvel. Then when you became an Image partner, you suddenly made a 180 and it was like you didn't want to have anything to do with them anymore, you seemed to hold some sort of grudge against them. What happened? Did you have a fight with the Marvel execs or something? Or is it simply, you being a partner and all, that you had to become contractually Image-exclusive?

Robert can elaborate on this, but from my understanding: if you're going to be the face of creator-owned comics, your MO should be creator-owned comics, amirite?

I didn't enjoy my time at Marvel because I liked to be in control of my work, how it's presented, who works with me, how it's marketed, all that. I enjoyed individual books, for the most part, but the overall experience left much to be desired. Creator-owned comics is a more viable long-term career choice, and while I was at Marvel, other creators thought I did Marvel work to pay the bills and creator-owned stuff for fun. That's a horrible misconception. I was making more money from creator-owned in my second year at Marvel, long before things REALLY took off, and long before a certain TV show was made. So I decided to take a stand, be the guy that only does creator-owned stuff... and succeeds, and hopefully, eventually, other people would follow. Because life is much better now... and I want as many people as possible to share in my happiness, and I want to read more awesome creator-owned books.

3) About Eve: her FATHER's name is Adam, how creepy is that? Is there a subtext about incest here and is this why her mother insists on her first name being Samantha, or was it just a coincidence that never occurred to you? Knowing how thoroughly you usually plan stuff, I suspect there's something quite yucky here, with her dad talking to Mark about her (lack of) virginity and all...

Egads, I hope not! First abortion, next: incest? Robert's got a knack for melodrama, but I don't know man...

I honestly never made the connection. A bit of a goof on my part. I think I chose Adam because it kind of sounds like Atom. But... the whole Adam/Eve connection is weird. I can't tell you how little effort I put into coming up with normal names for characters. It's a little unnerving when I think about it. That's why there's tons of repeated names in Walking Dead. I'm like "Have I used Bruce yet? Bruce--yeah--this guy is Bruce!"

I'll try harder from now on.

4) We need more Green Ghost barfing! That scene in #7 was delightfully gross, and I absolutely loved how he was on the verge of throwing up after having to swallow the amulet right back. Please, let us enjoy a new Green Ghost.

Noted!

I've been meaning to get to that since issue 7. I'd love to have another Green Ghost, and even had plans for it, but never got around to it. I think I've mentioned it in a letters column before.

5) After the way Mark and Amber broke up, I had assumed they'd remain close friends, but she seems to have vanished from the book after the punch-in-the-face incident, except for the short glimpse of her and Gary glued to the TV during the fight against Conquest. Will she ever return in Mark's life? As a friend, I mean, not a lover. I miss her. More than that, I think Mark himself needs a circle of normal, grounded friends, considering how crazy his life has become for quite a while now. Sure, he still has William and Rick, but William's not exactly a grounded person and Rick... well, he's not fully human anymore and he's had his share of personal hell that I'm sure he's still coping with.

I can guarantee that we haven't seen the last of Amber. I cannot guarantee when.

6) Whatever happened to the London "sky god sect" running gag? That was hilarious and wasn't even remotely getting old.

RK?

It's coming...

7) How come Nolan and Allen's uniforms bear the C.O.P. logo in latin alphabet? It should be written in a weird alien language. A point also valid for every alien being encountered by humans: how come each and every one of them (except Octoboss - BTW, his way of speaking was fun and I'd like to see him again some time) seems to speak a perfectly flawless english?

They were designed knowing that our alphabet is cooler? I really do think that coolness factor had a lot to do with it.

My thinking is that our alphabet is somewhat alien in origin... same with the English language. Allen touched on this in issue 5, I believe. Mark asked "how are you speaking English?" and Allen replied "What's English?"

Well that's it for now. I hope Invincible will stick around as long as ol' Webhead. Looking forward to #500!

Keep on rockin'!
Guillaume Perez

PS: A word for Abigail from the lettercol in #68: "Superheroines that are normal." Really?! What exactly IS a "normal" superheroine?

Normal would mean: fuller-figured, and displayed on the cover (that's tracking back to an older letter saying that we wouldn't put Eve on a cover in her current state).

If a movie ever ever happens...

BRYAN CRANSTON FOR NOLAN. The thought of it makes me so happy I could pee. That is all.

Daniel Walker

Not entirely with you on this one. He's one of the best actors ever, but c'mon: Walter White as the ultimate Viltrumite?

I could see it...

#Numbers! (Can we do hash tagging too? Bah, too late...)

My therapist made me stop when I started using hand gestures to indicate I was hash tagging.

1. Loved issues 85 and 86 with the great Invincible OG Cory Walshizzle, but I have one problem with Kirkman. Why don't Allen and C.O.P get a human and test the virus on it first, to see how it affects us? Please don't go on further on the storyline without addresing this! You really miss that one didn't you?

Humans are hard to come by that far in space.

And... they're trying to kill Viltrumites, they know it does that. You don't test a weapon on the collateral damage to make sure there will be damage. No time!

2. Another bone to pick with Robert, WTH happened man? There once was a time when every comic book you made had its own flavor, but now you write two books with a hero and a partner Super Dinosaur (Mark/Dinosaurus - Derek/SD) What's next, Rick Grimes and his pet velociraptor?

That is one way to deal with the undead pandemic... It's only in two books! Well, would it be spoiling too much to say that The Infinite may or may not be a third book with a dinosaur partner in crime? If I could still hash tag, I'd type #timetravel #obvi

3. If I have a baby someday, can I call him Mark Grayson? (I plan to do that even if it's a girl)

Fine by me.

Seconded.

4. How much tax-payer money is going towards Cecil special bathtub?

Let's just say we're not in deficit for nothin'.

5. Did Eve get an abortion like a normal woman or did she use her powers? #whynoadoption #shesadoptedherself

***shudder* She went traditional. As for adoption, I think she'd have a lot of splainin' to do if down the line her baby ended up with super powers in Randomtown, Illinois.**

6. Before Nolan dies #spoileralert, can he have his last conversation with our great friend the superhero tailor/outfiter?

Well, let's see how he gets out of his current pickle before we divulge the ifs and the whens of his demise.

13 issues in 12 months, Make Mine Edited By Sina, Colored by John, Lettered by Rus, Drawn by Ryan, Written by Kirkman! #toolong #notgonnawork

Gabriel Diaz

We're trying! Thanks for the vote of confidence!

Penvincipals-

Long-time (reader) first-time (letter-writer) and all that (e.g., feel free to assume I enjoy your product).

It probably takes a long-time reader to appreciate what a good issue #86 was. For example, first-time readers would miss much in Debbie's response to Nolan at the end of the issue. Given what he has put her through, the possibility of him going bad again is pretty much her worst fears made manifest.

But what I enjoyed most was the moral quandary raised and the various characters' reactions to them. Leadership seems to weigh heavily on Allen, and fear of what might happen to those under his care is pushing to do something he probably would have once never considered. Note how he moved his fight with Nolan out of a crowded building, reminding us that he is driven by protecting innocents. Nolan has experience with compromising your principles on a micro level for the "greater (Viltrumite) good," and has the regrets that come with that. Amazing how he has changed from the guy who betrayed the Guardians to the voice of reason that argues risking a whole species to stop what his race MIGHT do is not worth it. His speech about how the people of Earth changed him, and how they might do the same for his fellow Viltrumites, suggests he's carrying a lot of baggage for his actions against both. The moment he grabs Oliver shows exactly how many regrets that guy has. I wonder if Invincible isn't Nolan's story nearly as much as Mark's.

And Oliver. I've swung back and forth between disliking that him and seeing potential in him. I'm surprised it didn't give Allen pause when Oliver "agreed" with Allen, but for different reasons (i.e., Earth people deserve to die, too). I think Mr. Kirkman could give a certain film maker tips on how a likable "hero" might one day become a villain. Care only about the people closest to you, carry a lot of anger, and see killing as both not a big deal and expedient at times. Oliver seems to be on a nice, slow boil to one day be Mark's greatest adversary.

Of course, I could be wrong, as Mark has been making some "ends justify the means" choices himself lately. He just released a villain who believed killing a whole city was worth the "greater good." It's great for the story that he won't be standing completely on the moral high ground when Allen comes calling. I smell Mark making a mistake and learning a hard lesson, Oliver becoming a bad guy, and a noble sacrifice from Nolan. But you all do tend to manage to surprise. It's why #87 will be my first read next month.

Robert's doing a grand slam job playing with all the themes you mentioned in this book, Super Dinosaur, and The Walking Dead. No spoilers, but all heroes are faced with hard choices to make: it's what makes them both heroes and compelling characters to follow.

Hope I'm not reading too much into things here. For example, Dinosaurus could be an allegory for the dangers of apathy (given it turns you into a monster). Then again, he may have just been there to set up a joke about how boring Mark's life can be. I've often wondered if readers finding more in a story than the author may have originally intended is the sign of weak writing or masterful. Maybe it just shows that some of us spend too much of our time with our noses buried in a funny book.

You're getting a bit LIT 101 on us, to be sure, but it's welcome! Robert's the first to admit what his intentions are when creating something, and even if you're on a separate page than him, it's the experiences we carry that inform what we're creating and reading.

To restore my comic-geek cred, let me end with what a great beat-down Allen delivered. In space, no less. Nice work, Cory. And "Oh, shut up! Viltrumites have balls -- cry baby!" may be the 2011 Invincible quote of the year.

That was a good one!

Do me a favor. I'm thrilled with your on-time shipment approach. Could you also have the Image Science Department (ISD) investigate time-travel technology that might enable something even better (say, "pre-time" shipment)? If so, I'd greatly appreciate it if you could get me issue 87 yesterday.

Many thanks-
Jason Blackwell

Maybe if you spent less time over analyzing the comic, you'd figure out a way to do pre-time shipment yourself, you liberal arts hippie!

Hey Robert,

First of all I want to get the fanboying out of the way; you're a damn fine writer! TWD and Invincible are the first comics I've followed as they're being produced. I got into comics recently and all my favourites had concluded before I'd ever heard of them. So it's awesome to be part of this experience with you, your team and all the fans on the letters column. I wish the other books I've started to read indulged their fans with a letters column. It's great to see the positive and negative opinions of others, and also seeing fan reactions and theories to big events. There are a few things I wouldn't have noticed if I hadn't read it in the mail. I guess you could just go to a message board for that but it's more personal with the creators involved.

Agreed! Plus, good conversations get derailed FAST on message boards by pictures of people's cats.

I love cat pictures!

Anyway, with that said I want to get on to my first ever complaint about one of your books. (Why do you think I'm writing in? I know you don't want stuff that's full of just praise. I got your back Kirkman!) I know it's been a WHILE since the costume change to say the least but I'm catching up after lagging behind and I miss the yellow. I usually don't like yellow on costumes but the blue, yellow and black combo with the simplicity of the costume fucking SUNG, MAN! I'm not saying the blue and black is bad, it's got its charm. But I feel like it's a bit bland and generic. In a sea of dark-caped vigilantes clamoring for attention Mark's bit of yellow seemed to lend him a bit of individuality. I feel like he's less memorable this way. Like a kid could look at him, see the dark blue and black and go "hurrdurp, is that Batman daddy?" Now of course, yellow or no yellow I'll slap that kid silly. (I kid, I kid.) But that bit of yellow makes him quite obviously Invincible. To me anyway.

So that's my ramble about a small and outdated issue. But I feel strongly about my superhero costumes, damn it! Naw, not really. But I do think you should have stuck with the yellow. I'll keep reading no matter what you do of course, 'cause Invincible addresses all the problems I've experienced when trying to read superhero comics and FIXES them. So you keep it up. Put him in clown shoes and a wet suit if you feel the need. Just don't change the always evolving and gripping storylines!

Okay, it's strange that you send this in after Mark not only gets back into his yellow costume, but even gets that costume tweaked. I'm a big fan of the costume argument (especially in favor of the current yellow costume), so I allow this outdated letter to run.

PS. You spoiled the next Big Death in the TWD column and it broke my heart. (In fact he may already be dead since I haven't read the latest issue yet) :(YOU ALREADY TOOK DALE AWAY FROM ME! HOW COULD YOU! Heh. Keep me on the edge of my seat man. Love it!

From Kirkmaniac number 8575876 or something :D

If you're referring to what I think you're referring to- spoiler alert: WE WERE KIDDING!

Messieurs Kirkman, Otley, Walker etc.

I was so happy to've received my Science Dog super size. I love the 'bande dessinée' presentation, and I was very eager to open it up and take a second gander at a story that I read thru Invincible, bought the two issue mini series, and loved every bit of it. I usually have little patience for time travel narratives, but Science Dog is currently my favourite, more than Terminator, Doctor Who..., I hate time paradoxes, they are cheezy and lame when used in science fiction stories, but you brought the theme somewhere else (yet again).

Such a great book, right? EVERYONE BUY IT.

Please.

Why aren't FCO's solours in the book? or rather WHY AREN'T FCO'S COLOURS IN THE BOOK !?! I especially loved the way his colours and Mr. Walker's style blended, It was something marvelous. I like Dave Stewart's colours (HELLBOY!), that's not the point. The point that his style is different (obviously), and it reacts differently with Cory's art, he renders his colours differently. I wasn't expecting this curveball, and it enticed me to write to you for the first time today, because today is the first time that I feel that my opinion sould be heard by you, seeing as for the past 4 and a half years that I've been into comics (the first comic I ever pulled off the rack was an issue of Irredeemable Ant-Man), I've been hooked on all of your work, I read the issues and collect the trades and I have had ABSOLUTELY nothing to say except: thank you!

We aimed for consistency in the hardcover edition. Before, there was something like four colorists throughout the span of the Science Dog stories (dating back to Invincible #25). If we'd have kept them the same, it would have made reading the book a bit inconsistent for you.

You are a gift, and I am astounded that what we are living right now is 'early Kirkman'. WHOOT! WHOOT! numbered bullet points!!

1. I forget if this was brought up before. When Mark was in a coma after Conquest impaled him, he was growing facial hair, yet his upper lip was baby arse smooth. wouldn't the viltrumite DNA bring the moustache to the next level?

Oliver was grooming it for him.

2. Whatever happened to that British guy who seemed just about ready to start his cult, fully accessorized with garbage bag and grad cap?

RK?

Eventually, I'll get to it.

3. Super Dinosaur is wicked Awesome, your most original idea in your carreer so far, and I have equal admiration for Jason Howard's contribution, his design is awesome cool, and he's just getting started, what a privilege to witness his progression in the industry! I wish SD existed when I was 9 years old. It would have fundamentally changed me. Probably.

Thanks! Here's hoping we get a million more kids hooked on reading comics because of SD!

4. I'm going to need my fix soon, seeing as I've gone without Rex Splode for what seems like years to me.

I can't help you with that.

5. Those guys with the Star Trek archetypes are very cool. Think of writing a mini-series someday? I'd buy it.

Not your worst request. Will it happen? I can't say :)

Probably not. I'm not looking to get SUED!

I guess this can be it for now, this was nice, I might do it again.

Thank you for inspiring me,
Patrick
Montréal, Québec

Please continue writing in! We always love feedback and an excess of compliments.

Thanks again for the mail. If I didn't say it enough back then: thanks Cory for contributing to the book (I have #86, page 15 on my wall as I type this). Please come back again in February for more twists and turns! Boy howdy, are you gonna be pleased.

Also: If you are in the Bay Area, please come to IMAGE EXPO! February 24-26, Oakland Convention Center. Not only will Robert, Ryan and I be there, so will dozens of your favorite Image creators and Skybound booth babes! No joke!

Best,

-Sina Grace

I'll see you there!!

-Robert Kirkman

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ALPHA GIRL #1
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LUTHER STRODE
JUSTIN JORDAN TRADD MOORE FELIPE SOBREIRO
STRANGE TALENT OF LUTHER STRODE #5
ON SALE NOW
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GREATS
LAST OF THE GREATS #5
ON SALE NEXT WEEK
INVINCIBLE #89
ON SALE MARCH 2012
20
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SENHOR GATÃO, ELES FAZEM VÁRIAS HQS ENTÃO AQUELA QUE VOCÊ QUER PODE DEMORAR UM POUCO. MAS OUVI DIZER QUE VOCÊ PODE SE CANDIDATAR PARA SER TRADUTOR, REVISOR OU DIAGRAMADOR... OUVI DIZER QUE ELES ATÉ ENSINAM VOCÊ A DIAGRAMAR.
PERDEU A CABEÇA, HEIN? EU ENTENDI O QUE VOCÊ ESTÁ DIZENDO?
EU POSSO ENTRAR EM WWW.SOQUADRINHOS.COM E ME CANDIDATAR , COMO TRADUTOR OU DIAGRAMADOR; ELES ATÉ VÃO ME ENSINAR A DIAGRAMAR?
MEU DEUS ISSO MUDA TUDO!
TODAS AS HORAS DO DIA QUE EU FICO EM CASA, SEM NADA PARA FAZER, EU PODERIA AJUDAR ELES TRADUZINDO/DIAGRAMANDO REVISTAS QUE EU ADORO...ISSO É MUITO BOM. SEREI SEMPRE O PRIMEIRO A LER!
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